

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Mr. Chairman, I object. If we do have to have a roll call, I will ask for it. I don't think we should postpone this bill any longer. It's been here for a year now.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Do you wish to put that in the form of a motion, Senator Keyes? Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'd ask the Clerk to read the bracketing motion I have.

CLERK: Mr. President, the motion reads as follows: to bracket LB 407 on General File until after the appropriation bills are considered on General File.

SENATOR FOWLER: It's not a unanimous consent motion because I figured Senator Labeledz would object. I thought we'd just go straight and try and bracket it. Can I speak to that motion?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Yes, go ahead.

SENATOR FOWLER: The motion is to bracket this bill until the appropriations bills come out on General File. This is not just...I'm not just suggesting we pass over this bill because there are not enough people here or anything like that. The reason that I want to bracket it is that this is a multi-million dollar bill with a multi-million dollar impact. The decision we make on General File, with this bill, will affect the decisions we make in Appropriations Committee. Every dollar that is put into the homestead exemption is one less dollar that will be available for the decisions that we're making now on the appropriations bills. I think that is the wrong sequence for us to take these up. I think we should first look at state priorities and then consider the homestead exemption question. I'm not opposed to increasing the homestead exemption. I think my record on senior citizen issues is pretty clear. This is not an effort to try and injure senior citizens or anything of that sort. But what I'm saying is in the sequence in which we consider bills, in the sequence in which we consider legislation with this large a fiscal impact, that we should hold this on General File, let the Appropriations Committee, of which I'm a member and I obviously have an interest in the decisions of that committee, let that committee make its decisions about state priorities first. Then we can address an issue such as the homestead exemption. The budget is very tight. I think it has been said time and time again this bill, with its amendments, could add millions of dollars that would not be available for state programs, for improvement of parks, or the university, the state colleges and so on. For that reason I move that we bracket this bill until the appropriation bills are considered.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise in support of the suggestion of Senator Fowler, for a very similar reason. I should tell you, as the Speaker indicated this morning the appropriation bills should be out on the floor the second or third of March. He tentatively planned to take them up on the 12th. We've indicated numerous times that the revenue